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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician

Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on hand January 1, 2003, in Nebraska totaled 6.2 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago and 6 percent from 2001. The 2002 calf crop totaled 1.82 million head, equal to 2001 but 1 percent below 2000.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. The 2002 calf crop was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2001-2003

Class	Nebraska				United States ¹			
	2001	2002	2003	2002/2001	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Cattle and calves	6,600	6,400	6,200	97	97,277	96,704	96,106	99
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,020	2,000	2,000	100	42,580	42,229	42,099	100
Beef cows	1,945	1,932	1,934	100	33,397	33,118	32,947	99
Milk cows	75	68	66	97	9,183	9,112	9,152	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	1,820	1,730	1,690	98	19,776	19,678	19,601	100
For beef cow replacement	300	285	280	98	5,588	5,561	5,608	101
For milk cow replacement	30	25	20	80	4,057	4,060	4,104	101
Other heifers	1,490	1,420	1,390	98	10,131	10,057	9,890	98
Steers 500 pounds and over	2,230	2,120	2,000	94	16,441	16,790	16,590	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	100	100	100	2,274	2,244	2,253	100
Calves under 500 pounds	430	450	410	91	16,206	15,763	15,563	99
	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
Calves born	1,840	1,820	1,820	100	38,631	38,280	38,193	100

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle, February 1, 2002.

Livestock Operations: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 1999-2002

Year	Nebraska					United States				
	Cattle	Milk Cows ¹	Beef Cows ¹	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle	Milk Cows ¹	Beef Cows ¹	Hogs	Sheep
	<i>Number</i>					<i>Number</i>				
1999	28,000	1,300	23,000	5,000	1,700	1,096,550	111,000	844,170	98,610	66,800
2000	27,000	1,200	23,000	4,000	1,700	1,077,560	105,170	830,670	86,360	66,100
2001	26,000	1,100	22,000	3,400	1,600	1,049,910	97,510	813,650	80,880	65,120
2002	25,000	1,000	22,000	2,900	1,500	1,032,670	91,990	805,080	75,350	64,170

¹ Included in number of cattle operations.

Source: USDA NASS, Cattle, January 31, 2003; Sheep and Goats January 31, 2003; Quarterly Hog & Pigs, December 30, 2002.

Cattle On Feed

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Down 4 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 2.14 million cattle on feed on January 1, down 4 percent from last year and 11 percent below 2001. Placements of cattle into feedlots during December totaled 340,000 head, up 13 percent from 2001 but equal to 2000. Fed cattle marketings for the month of December totaled 370,000 head, up 14 percent from last year and 9 percent above December two years ago. Other disappearance during December totaled 10,000 head compared with 15,000 head during December 2001 and 10,000 head during December 2000.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on January 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below January 1, 2002 and 10 percent below January 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.59 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 6 percent below 2000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2001 but 3 percent above 2000. Other disappearance totaled 99,000 during December, 6 percent above 2001 and 4 percent above 2000.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2001-2003

State	January 1 Number on Feed ¹			December Placements			December Marketings			December Other Disappearance ²		
	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>	2001	2002	<u>2002</u> <u>2001</u>	2001	2002	<u>2002</u> <u>2001</u>	2001	2002	<u>2002</u> <u>2001</u>
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arizona	305	289	95	30	25	83	26	27	104	2	4	200
California	480	490	102	50	55	110	50	55	110	10	10	100
Colorado	1,180	1,020	86	165	145	88	135	185	137	10	10	100
Idaho	330	295	89	51	44	86	59	47	80	2	2	100
Iowa	355	355	100	55	65	118	49	59	120	1	1	100
Kansas	2,480	2,200	89	370	390	105	510	470	92	20	20	100
Nebraska	2,230	2,140	96	300	340	113	325	370	114	15	10	67
New Mexico	108	119	110	14	12	86	13	15	115	1	1	100
Oklahoma	360	330	92	42	34	81	65	41	63	2	3	150
So. Dakota	195	205	105	35	38	109	34	27	79	1	1	100
Texas	2,880	2,630	91	360	360	100	450	400	89	20	30	150
Washington	247	180	73	38	27	71	47	40	85	4	2	50
Other States	415	335	81	68	55	81	48	65	135	5	5	100
United States	11,565	10,588	92	1,578	1,590	101	1,811	1,801	99	93	99	106

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, January 17, 2003.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, Nebraska, 20 States and United States, 2001-2002

Item and Quarter	Nebraska		20 States		United States	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
<i>1,000 Head</i>						
Milk cows ¹						
July-September	70	67	7,737	7,786	9,098	9,155
October-December	69	66	7,738	7,793	9,105	9,148
Milk production ²						
July-September	275	283	35,155	36,201	40,570	41,845
October-December	273	290	35,256	35,878	40,818	41,511

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, January 17, 2003.

Thanks !

By Bill Hamlin, State Statistician, USDA-NASS, Lincoln, NE

Thanks to everyone who helped us publicize the 2002 Census of Agriculture. You have all done a great job in partnership with us to let producers know that this project is underway and how important it is to report.

Thanks also to those many producers who have already taken the time to complete your form and return it. We realize that many of you are waiting for your tax records to complete the Census. If so, please take the time to do so as soon as possible. We know that you are busy and greatly appreciate your cooperation.

2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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United States Department of Agriculture



National Agricultural Statistics Service

The Census is Counting on You

The 2002 Census of Agriculture is now underway. Your response will help provide official facts representing all U.S. producers and commodities.

Don't be left out when decisions are made about you and American agriculture. Take the time to fill out your report form and return it today. It's the law.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

For help completing your census form, call **1-888-4AG-STAT**.

Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs Per Litter, and Pig Crop, United States December-November 2002-2003 ^{1 2}

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Dec ¹	923	905	8.66	8.78	7,994	7,946
Jan	946		8.73		8,257	
Feb	967		8.83		8,543	
Mar	978		8.80		8,608	
Apr	983		8.85		8,700	
May	982		8.81		8,651	
Jun	938		8.85		8,301	
Jul	949		8.86		8,408	
Aug	946		8.88		8,405	
Sep	951		8.85		8,416	
Oct	940		8.83		8,300	
Nov	926		8.83		8,176	
Total	11,429		8.82		100,758	

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Monthly Hogs and Pigs, January 31, 2003.

Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class and Lamb Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2002-2003

State	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs		Total Market Sheep & Lambs		All Sheep & Lambs		Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+, Jan 1		Lamb Crop	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Nebraska	73	70	28	19	101	89	77	58	112	138	86	80
United States	4,913	4,682	1,772	1,668	6,685	6,350	4,091	3,980	110	110	4,495	4,360

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, January 31, 2003.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from a revised December index. Higher prices for broilers, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset lower prices for wheat, corn, turkeys, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index.

Increased marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.2 percent) above January 2002. Higher prices for soybeans, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and broccoli.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary January 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Jan 2002 ¹	Dec 2002 ¹	Jan 15, 2003	Jan 2002 ¹	Dec 2002 ¹	Jan 15, 2003	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	2.75	4.02	3.55	2.87	4.06	3.66	38	9.53
Corn	Bushel	1.92	2.32	2.27	1.97	2.32	2.27	35	6.51
Oats	Bushel	1.71	2.23	2.30	1.93	2.00	1.90	47	4.07
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	3.27	4.34	4.25	3.34	4.13	4.07	37	11.00
Soybeans	Bushel	4.11	5.36	5.30	4.22	5.46	5.38	38	14.20
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	72.00	88.00	85.00	91.70	92.60	92.90		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	73.00	89.00	86.00	101.00	100.00	97.60		
Other, Baled	Ton	65.00	81.00	78.00	72.70	74.70	79.60		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	18.90	17.50	17.40	21.50	16.80	16.30	33	49.70
Hogs	Cwt	40.50	32.60	34.00	37.70	30.30	31.80	31	101.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	40.80	32.80	34.20	38.30	30.70	32.30		
Sows	Cwt	26.10	24.00	23.70	26.40	22.30	21.80		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	69.80	75.00	76.60	67.10	70.50	72.60	46	158.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	70.80	76.30	77.90	71.20	75.10	77.60		
Cows	Cwt	36.70	34.30	35.40	38.00	34.60	35.50		
Calves	Cwt	107.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	94.70	95.50	45	213.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.60	38.00		36.20	37.90			77.80
Lambs	Cwt	63.50	88.00		65.50	87.20			182.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for January 2003.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, January 31, 2003.

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